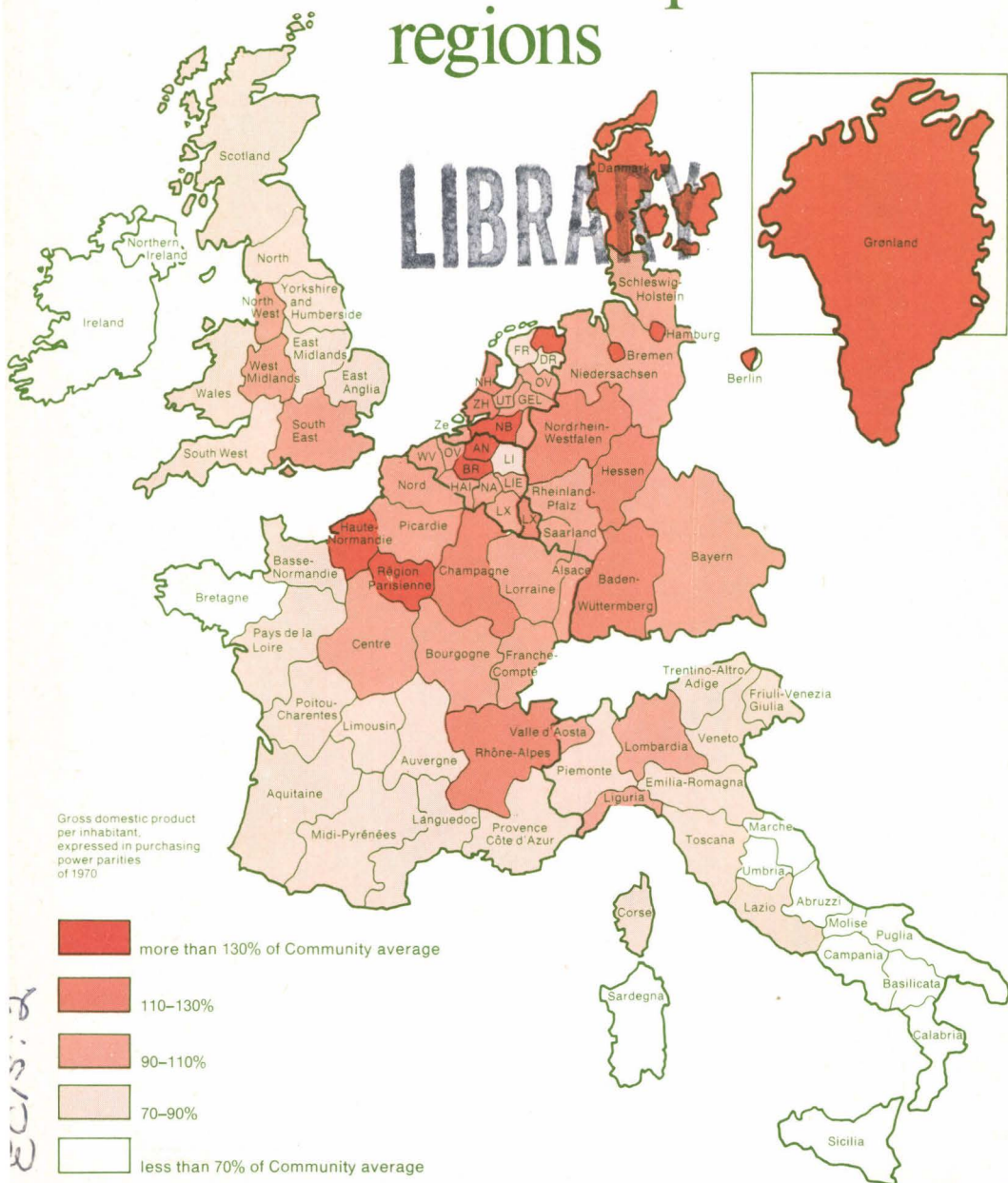


European Community

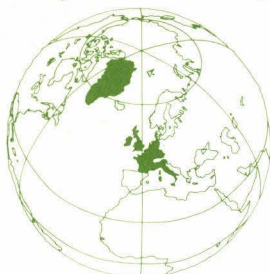
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Better help for the regions



European Community



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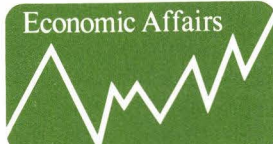
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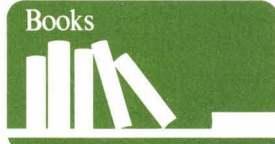
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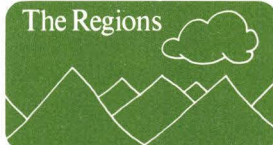
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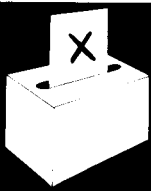
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Facing world crisis

From a speech by Vice-President Finn Gundelach in London on September 21, 1978

The world is going through its severest economic crisis since the 1930's, and everything seems to indicate that this is not just a temporary phenomenon but a dramatic move towards new structures. It is fashionable to say that this crisis was triggered by the sharp rise in oil prices — fashionable but not, I think, correct. Inflation rates and monetary disorder first became serious at the very beginning of the seventies, due largely to the overheating of our economies in the 1960's and the war in Vietnam. It was these problems that caused the oil price rise, not the other way around. I think this is perhaps becoming evident in Great Britain: North Sea oil is helping to bring your economic difficulties under control but the basic problem is still 'What, taking account of inflation, is a reasonable degree of growth for the UK economy?'

No rhetoric

Now a crisis is a crisis. A crisis hurts — as the Community's six million unemployed will tell you — and it will not go away by itself. Nor, I think, is it feasible to try to solve these problems by ourselves. In saying this, I am not simply launching myself into Community rhetoric.

All together

There is a school of thought, even among those who are firmly committed to the idea of the Community and its development, which says the time may not yet be ripe for some member States to play a full part in Community affairs.

These people believe that before we can firmly pursue economic and monetary union, for instance, we must first put our national houses in order. They believe that healthy countries can be of more use to the Community than countries with problems.

Other countries

This is a view I reject. We can all work alone to overcome our problems but not without great difficulty and economic pain for large groups of our populations. Our economies are already so interdependent and our stakes in international economic life are so high that putting our houses in order is best done in the context of a joint effort. Much of the difficulty would reside in the fact that problems of inflation and associated monetary difficulties are not merely internal — they concern relations with other countries, the present multilateral trade negotiations as well as other things.

Facing the US

This is why we all need the Community. Let me give an illustration from the very latest position in the MTN's. The basis of the talks up until now has been one of reciprocity. But the threat of American legislation bringing new anti-dumping measures could put all that has been achieved into jeopardy. We could face an avalanche of unjustified countervailing duties if pending legislation reaches the Statute Book. The only way in which we can prevent such a thing happening is by acting together and the Commission has taken action on behalf of the Community and the Council has approved it.

Solidarity

The conclusion I draw from this is that in today's highly interdependent world we are better off acting together. It is foolish to use the Community as a scapegoat for national economic difficulties and to quarrel whether one is better off inside or outside. We are all inside and the deep crisis which we face can only be overcome by solidarity — a long-lasting solidarity, not one that is put aside at the first sign of difficulty.

It also follows from this that we need a Community which is sufficiently equipped to achieve its aims. If we want the Community to survive we must press forward on

issues where we can act better as a Community than as a collection of individuals. We must not harmonise for harmonisation's sake. But:

- ☐ **We must accept — as I have already intimated — the disciplines of economic and monetary union.**
- ☐ **We must accept the need for transfers of resources in order to allow some parts of the Community to modernise their economic structures.**
- ☐ **We must remove the obstacles which still lie in the path of common development: we must reduce red tape, we must improve the capital market and the internal market, that is we must go on taking down non-tariff barriers.**
- ☐ **Most of all, we must realise that nothing can help if there is not the will to modernise our economies and to do away with antiquated structures.**

Constructive

We also need a Community which is sufficiently flexible to take account of new economic and political conditions. Debate is a healthy sign of progress. But let me make it clear that I see a difference between constructive debate and political blackmail.

So let us face the real necessities, stop the polemics and act.

Quotation of the month

'We are quite sure that Britain is good for Europe, we believe that Europe may be good for Britain, and we're certain that Britain in Europe is good for the Commonwealth.'

Shridath Ramphal, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, in a BBC radio broadcast, August 20, 1978.



The month in Europe

HRH to EEC

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is to visit the Commission on November 30, 1978. He is expected to have a private talk with the President, followed by a meeting with the Commission and a luncheon in his honour.

£21m for UK

In September, a new allocation of £21 million for the UK was announced by the European Regional Development Fund. This brings the total contribution to Britain up to £194 million since the Fund was set up.

Home mishaps

The Commission has proposed a Community system of information on accidents in and around the home in which products are involved. The aim would be to help identify those that involve most risks. At present, it is estimated that home accidents kill between 25,000 and 30,000 Community citizens a year, and injure between four and five million more.

Local authorities

At the instigation of Commissioner Guido Brunner, local authorities in the nine Community countries have agreed to set up permanent mutual links to share experience and improve communications.

Swiss pact

On September 14, Switzerland signed an agreement with the Community on peaceful nuclear fusion research, providing for her to take part among other things in the Joint European Torus (JET) project under way at Culham, England.

Bumper harvest

The 1978 grain harvest in the Community may total 113.7 million tonnes, 10 million more than in 1977. The extra production is worth some £675 million at current world prices, and should help keep grain prices down throughout the Community during the year to come, since the new system of grain price support allows market prices to respond more freely to abundant domestic supplies.

Training cash

The Commission has announced grants totalling £105,000 for pilot projects to provide specialised training in the UK via the Community's Social Fund.

N. Ireland

Since the UK joined the European Community, Northern Ireland has received £32.56 million in grants from the European Regional Development Fund, and some £21.7 million in loans from the European Investment Bank.



Energy up, oil imports down

The Commission reports on 1977-78

On a proposal from Mr Brunner, the Commission has approved a report to the Council on the Community's energy supply situation. The report covers 1977 and the first half of 1978 and summarizes information obtained under Regulation 1729/76 adopted by the Council on June 21, 1976.

One of the facts which emerges from the report is that the Community's energy consumption increased by 0.4 per cent in 1977 vis-à-vis 1976 and that in the first half of 1978 it should show an increase of 1.3 per cent vis-à-vis the first half of 1977.

The report shows that net energy imports for the first half of 1978 are 2 per cent below those during the same period of the previous year. Net oil imports should be some 4 per cent lower.

This situation is the result of an appreciable increase in the Community's own oil production, which was slightly below 26 million toe (tonnes oil equivalent) in the second half of 1977 and is estimated to be close to 33 million toe in the first half of 1978.

The table below shows that gross consumption within the Community rose by 0.4 per cent in 1977 — an estimate which is close to the 0.1 per cent increase estimated for this year by the Statistical Office.

Community million toe or per cent	1976	1st half 1977	1977/1976 Difference in per cent
Internal production	398.2	428.8	+ 7.7
Net imports	561.2	531.9	—5.2
Movement of stocks	—10.4	—8.4	—
Reserves	32.0	31.4	—1.9
Gross internal consumption	917.0	920.9	+ 0.4

Information obtained in March 1978 included the forecasts for the first half of 1978. These data, compared with the forecasts for the first half of 1977, showed the following trends in the Community:

Community million toe or per cent	1st half 1977	1st half 1978	difference in per cent
Internal production	218.0	225.4	+ 3.4
Net imports	268.2	262.3	—2.2
Movement of stocks	+ 3.1	+ 7.1	—
Reserves	16.2	15.7	—3.1
Gross internal consumption	473.1	479.1	+ 1.3

Internal consumption of primary energy was as follows for each energy source:

Community million toe or per cent	1st half 1977	1st half 1978	difference in per cent
Coal and equivalents	89.7	91.4	+ 1.9
Lignite and equivalents	13.0	13.7	+ 5.4
Crude oil and equivalents	253.3	255.4	+ 0.8
Natural gas and equivalents	83.9	88.5	+ 5.4
Nuclear energy	13.6	13.7	+ 0.7
Water power, geo- thermal energy and others	19.6	16.4	—16.3
Total gross internal consumption	473.1	479.1	+ 1.3



Help for the blind

Duty-free goods proposed for the handicapped

The European Commission is asking the Council of Ministers to bring the Community into line with a new UNESCO protocol providing for the granting of duty-free entry of materials specially designed for education, employment and social advancement of the blind, and other handicapped persons.

Background

In 1950 the General Conference of UNESCO adopted the Florence Agreement on the importation of educational, scientific and cultural materials. This provided for duty-free entry of certain articles for the blind, currently included in Community legislation.

In 1976 the UNESCO General Conference adopted a protocol to the Florence Agreement which, among other things, extended customs relief to further articles for the blind and, subject to certain conditions, to materials specially designed for the education, employment and social advancement of the physically or mentally handicapped.

The protocol stipulates that in order to obtain the goods duty-free, they must be ordered by publicly approved institutions directly concerned with assisting the blind and handicapped subject to the condition that equivalent objects are not being manufactured in the

importing country.

Further

The Commission suggests, however, that the Community should go beyond the obligations imposed by the protocol, and allow materials duty-free even when they are manufactured in the importing country, *provided* that the granting of this concession is not liable to prejudice Community production. It also proposes to grant duty-free entry to materials which are sent as a gift to an approved institution or organisation without any commercial consideration on the part of the donor. Further, under the Community regulation, approved institutions or organisations would be authorised to lend, hire out or transfer, on a non-profit-making basis, the articles imported duty-free.

Materials affected

The draft regulation lists the materials eligible for duty-free entry. These include children's picture and painting books printed in relief for the blind, braille paper, walking sticks, special typewriters, television enlargers, orthopaedic appliances, sound producers and equipment for table or funfair games, including billiard tables, pintables, etc.



Fairer shares

Regional policy to be improved

This year the European Community regional policy has entered a new phase. The size of the fund is more than doubled and the principles of allocation, approved by the Council of Ministers at the end of June (and expected to be incorporated into Community legislation this autumn) provide for greater coordination and flexibility. About £1,234 million has been allocated for 1978-80, of which about £330 million will be used in the UK.

The Commission believes that the innovation of a 'non-quota' section of the fund — a proposed five per cent of the fund's total 1978-80 resources — offers scope for Community action, outside the nationally aided areas, to help remedy new regional problems. The European Parliament, however, while applauding the introduction of the non-quota system, believes that the allocation is too small and should be included as a fixed figure in annual budgets. It has invoked the 'conciliation procedure' for budgetary discussion with the Council and the Commission.

Present policy

Community regional policy has two major aims — the reduction of existing regional imbalances in the less developed or industrially declining regions, and the

prevention of new imbalances arising from economic circumstances or adoption of Community policies. Compared with earlier years, the policy puts more stress on the need to create new jobs in these areas, and to link regional aid to an active employment policy.

£1,234 million

At their December, 1977 meeting the European Council (composed of Heads of State and Government) approved an overall budgetary commitment of 1,850 meua (£1,234 million) to the regional fund for the three years, 1978-80, allocating 580 meua (£386 million) for 1978, 620 meua (£414 million) for 1979, and 650 meua (£434 million) for 1980*.

These figures, though less than the European Parliament would have liked, compare reasonably well with the first three years of the regional fund, 1975-77, with its total allocation of £540 million.

Each Community country benefits from the regional fund on a quota basis. The 1978 quota differs slightly from previous years, to take account of a two per cent increase awarded to France for its overseas 'départements'.

*N.B. The 1975-7 regional fund was calculated as 1,300 million units of account, i.e. £540 million, based on an exchange rate of £ = 2.4 ua or 1 ua = 42p. Since the beginning of 1978 the ua has been replaced for budgetary purposes by the European Unit of Account (eua), approximately 66p.

The new scheme also allows for a more flexible definition of the types of infrastructure which qualify for aid from the fund, based on contributions 'towards development of the region' rather than directly linking aid to developments in the industrial or service sectors.

This means that the fund will be able to take greater account of regional needs and of the priorities of regional policy, although contributions from the fund for infrastructure may not exceed 70 per cent of total fund resources. In addition the maximum aid which may be granted by the fund in certain priority areas is increased from 30 to 40 per cent. This means that assistance may be given for projects which are of particular interest for a specific region, but which could be hampered or delayed due to lack of funds.

Non-quota section

But the most important modification to the fund is the agreement to introduce a 'non-quota' section. This can be used, according to strict Council criteria, outside nationally-aided areas to help finance specific Community regional development measures arising from new regional problems caused by the economic crisis or the Community's own policies.

The Council agreed, after long and difficult discussion, that for the 1978-80 period, the non-quota section should be allocated five per cent of the fund's total resources amounting, on present figures, to over 90 meua (£60 million) over the three years. The European Parliament, however, has argued that this is not enough and that the non-quota allocation should be written annually into the budget as a separate figure over and above the fixed commit-

ment. This argument has come to a head over the 1979 budget allocation to the regional fund where the Parliament is also contending that the European Council, under the Rome Treaty, has no statutory right to fix budgetary appropriations.

The Parliament has, therefore, invoked the conciliation procedure for budgetary discussion with the Council and the Commission to discuss the matter. A further meeting was held in mid-October.

The Parliament is also concerned at the Council's insistence that every project financed by non-quota monies must be unanimously approved by Ministers, as this can defeat the *Community* aspect of the non-quota innovation.

Whatever the outcome or compromise between the Institutions, the Commission will have the task of demonstrating that this extra resource can make a useful contribution towards solving certain types of regional problems for which the Community has special responsibility.

Coordinating

The new system also provides for better assessment and analysis of the regional economies. The Commission will draw up a report every two and a half years, which the Council of Ministers will consider, together with proposals for priorities and guidelines, in conjunction with the medium-term economic programme prepared every five years.

This should lead to better co-ordination between national regional policies themselves, and also between national policy and Community policy.

This is important because of the great regional divergences both within member countries and within the Community itself. The poorest regions are in the south of Italy and

the west of Ireland. The most prosperous regions continue to be round Hamburg, Paris and Brussels, which have an income per head several times higher.

The problems of the undeveloped rural areas are supplemented by the decline of once rich industrial regions, where industries like steel, ship-building and textiles are contracting. This is particularly true of the United Kingdom, but also of parts of France and Belgium. Then there are the peripheral areas, like Greenland, Sicily and the West of Ireland, and problems of congestion, pollution and urban decay which face many big cities in both the richer and poorer parts of the Community.

Supplementary

The Commission emphasises again that, contrary to the practice common in member countries, the object of the Regional Fund is to *supplement* and not to replace national financial aid to regional projects.

Even with larger resources and greater flexibility the Commission would not claim that the regional fund will enable the Community to solve its regional problems immediately. However, with the help of the regional policy committee, composed of senior national and Community officials, and which acts in an advisory capacity to the Commission and the Council, the Commission believes that the new more global and flexible approach to regional needs will enable the Community to make a more positive contribution than before to the human and social requirements of the poorer areas.

The regional fund is not the only source of financial aid member countries receive from the Community. Over the last year there

has been greater effort to coordinate contributions from different sources of finance so that they complement each other. For instance to date:

□ The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) has made loans totalling nearly 5,000 meua (£3,334 million) to help modernise Community coal and steel industries and attract new job industries to areas where coal and steel are on the decline. In 1977 such loans totalled over 740 meua (£594 million).

□ The European Investment Bank (EIB) has made available over 7,000 meua (£4,664 million) in loans, the bulk of it for regional development purposes. In 1977 almost 70 per cent of the 1,500 meua (£1,000 million) granted in the form of loans went to regional projects.

□ The European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Coal and Steel Community have together made grants totally more than 1,500 meua (£1,000 million) for training and retraining workers otherwise unable to find jobs.

□ The Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Fund (FEOGA) has spent 1,600 meua (£1,066 million) in the form of grants to help modernise the structure of agricultural production and distribution.

Contribution.

Thus the Community contribution to Community investment and help for workers has not been negligible, but because of economic recession the impact has been less than was hoped.

The scale of problems of the poorer regions is indeed great. The modifications to the regional fund have been designed to give the Commission and Council a better insight into these problems and how to deal with them.



Keynes in new guise

Environment policy can create jobs

The European Commission should put forward a uniform environmental programme for all the member countries, based on job-effective schemes to help combat unemployment. This is the recommendation of a recent study* by two German professors prepared for the environment and consumer protection service of the Commission.

Unemployment

In 1977 redundancies in the Community ranged from 4 per cent to 9.9 per cent of the workforce in the different countries. The average was just over five dismissals out of every 100 workers, but this level was lower in the Federal Republic, the Netherlands and France, and notably higher in Ireland and Belgium.

Office workers

The worst affected by dismissal were office workers and those in related jobs, followed by those in the iron and steel industry, transport, commerce and the building trade. In Ireland and Italy unemployment figures were also high in agriculture and fishing.

Young people

Throughout the Community, young people between the ages of 14 and 19 had great difficulty in finding jobs; the same was true, but to a lesser extent, for the 20-24 year

age group, and for those over 60.

Though the incidence varied regionally, the study noted that unemployment in rural and industrial problem areas was well above average when compared with urban unemployment.

Environmental projects

The authors of the study want to see this waste of human resources alleviated by the creation of jobs directly linked to improving the quality of the environment. The advantage, as they see it, is that such projects can be local, adapted to immediate needs, and are often labour intensive: both public and private enterprise can be involved, and the projects can be short or long term.

Package

The objective would not be a global, macro-economic employment programme related to the environment, but rather a package of individual environmental projects based on local activity, and designed to create jobs as part of general government employment policies.

While such schemes will, of course, cost money, calculations based on German experience suggest that compared with the cost of unemployment pay and loss of tax revenue per jobless person, job subsidies work out as expensive. In addition, there are indirect effects, as those in work are likely to spend more money and thus stimulate other

*"Characteristics of a job-related environment Programme for the Community," by Werner Meissner and Erich Hödl. Available in German only from M. Stufman, Environment and Consumer Protection Service, European Communities, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels.

sectors of the economy.

The Federal Republic has experimented with a number of environmental projects ranging from those requiring considerable capital equipment, to those needing practically none. For the purpose the authors have in mind the latter are better, in that they are cheaper, require fewer skilled workers and are more labour intensive.

Projects

The schemes suggested in the study include the construction and improvement of drainage schemes in residential areas; dispersal of unsorted waste tips; reclamation and recultivation of rubbish dumps and open-cast mining areas; strengthening of river banks; care and protection of public forests; clearing paths for hikers and cyclists in the countryside; restoration of historic buildings and sites, and collection and interpretation of environmental data.

Private firms

Such projects, the authors suggest, by concentrating on major aspects of water purification, protection of the countryside and the natural environment, and on environmental quality generally, fit in with most national environmental policies as well as contributing to regional employment. In addition, though the sponsors of the projects are likely to be public authorities, the work may often be contracted out to private firms, thus helping to keep them in business.

Britain

Britain's own Job Creation Programme, sponsored by the Manpower Services Commission, was introduced in October 1975, and by the end of 1976 had generated 58,000 jobs. The *ad hoc* nature of

the programme, however, inevitably led to some criticisms, and from the beginning of 1979 it will be replaced by two new programmes to help the unemployed.

YOP

The Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) is expected to provide in a full year 234,000 opportunities for training and work experience for young people between the age of 16 and 18 who have been continuously unemployed for six weeks or more, plus work for 8,000 unemployed adults working in supervisory and similar capacities. The Special Temporary Employment Programme (STEP) will provide some 25,000 temporary jobs in a full year for unemployed adults aged 19 and over, mainly on community projects similar to those under the Job Creation Programme, of which many are concerned with the qualitative improvement of the environment.

Limitations

The authors of the German study point out that there is a limit to the number of labour-intensive environmental projects that can be devised. Once a river bank has been strengthened or a rubbish tip dispersed, the work is largely finished.

It is obvious, therefore, that such schemes can only be temporary palliatives pending a general improvement in the economy. Youth unemployment, however, is a matter of increasing concern in all Community countries and to the European Commission, and here the German study makes a useful contribution.

But whether the Commission could base a common policy on it acceptable to all the member countries is a matter for further discussion.



State aid to industry

The golden rules

The European Commission is sometimes accused of seeking to prevent national governments from giving state aid to ailing industries.

In principle this is not so. But the Commission is the guardian of the Rome Treaties and has the task of ensuring that any such aids do not contravene Community rules on fair competition.

The following outlines the Commission's 'golden rules' on the matter.

Under the threat of increasing unemployment, many governments are yielding to pressure to give financial aid to struggling industries. State aids to industry are consequently on the increase and it is the European Commission's responsibility to ensure that these aids do not upset basic trading conditions within the Common Market.

Guarding the free play of market forces does not necessarily mean banning state aids to industry; many are in fact in the Community's general interest. They have to be judged case by case and should be permitted when they are likely to correct market conditions which:

- ☐ hinder progress towards certain economic or social objectives;
- ☐ only allow these objectives to be achieved with unacceptable social repercussions;
- ☐ intensify competition to the point

where it becomes self-destroying.

Increasingly, the Commission takes the view that aid should be authorized when it is necessary (and the need has been clearly demonstrated) to correct severe regional imbalances, to help accelerate industrial growth or change, to permit certain industries to be run down without too much social distress, or to neutralize, at least temporarily, distortions of competition due to outside factors.

Aid for ailing industries

The Commission's approach is to allow aid for struggling industries to ensure an orderly run down of their activity without serious repercussions for employment in general, and to ensure that national aid does not simply transfer the ills of one country to a Community partner. The Commission allows aid which permits a crisis stricken industry to adapt to new market conditions.

In concrete terms, that implies that the Commission applies three guiding principles:

- ☐ the aim of the aid should not be to preserve the *status quo*, e.g. aid for production cannot be permitted unless it is part of a reorganization programme;
- ☐ rescue measures are permitted when they provide a breathing space for long-term solutions to be implemented; they should be limited to

those industries with the most acute social problems;

☐ investment assistance should not expand capacity since overcapacity is prevalent in all crisis sectors.

Impact of other aids

The Commission also has expressed views on other types of aid to crisis sectors:

Employment aids: these can be intended either to create jobs or to maintain existing jobs. In the latter case, they should only be allocated to troubled sectors if they are part of a reorganization programme, otherwise they will simply transfer the social and industrial problems to other Community countries.

Regional aid: in sectors with large surplus capacity (shipbuilding and manmade fibres), the Community

has requested that no aid be given — even regional aid — which would be likely to increase overcapacity further.

Aid to growth sectors approved

Stimulating growth sectors is, by contrast, in the Community's interest since the principal competition faced by these sectors is from highly industrialized or technologically advanced countries. The Commission is encouraging the Nine actively to encourage the data processing, electronics and aerospace sectors, particularly by stepping up research and development. The Commission has no objection to state aid being used to develop these sectors but expansion programmes should be coordinated at Community level.

Statistic of the month

The price of the Community's exports has risen less than two-fifths as fast as that of its imported oil, according to the Commission's answer to a recent European Parliamentary Question from M. Pierre-Bernard Cousté, European Progressive Democrat.

Average values of imports of crude petroleum* by the member States 1970 = 100		Average values of Member States' total exports 1970 = 100
1971	121.5	105
1972	117.8	106
1973	140.6	116
1974	412.1	147
1975	434.9	161
1976	511.4	177
1977	540.5	191

Source: EUROSTAT

Note: The indices are calculated on the basis of total trade ('intra' and 'extra')

*UN International Trade Classification: 331.01.



Community bookshelf

Europe Right Ahead

This is a party political pamphlet by a group of Conservative MPs, edited by Lord O'Hagan, and published by the Conservative Political Centre at 85p.

Turkey-EEC

Economic Relations between Turkey and the EEC is the title of seminar proceedings edited by Osman Okyar H. Aktan for the Hacettepe Institute for Economic and Social Research on Turkey and the Middle East, in Ankara. Its price is 150 Turkish lire.

Population

Population Decline in Europe is a new symposium by the Council of Europe published in book form by Edward Arnold at £14.95.

Foreign policy

Foreign policy making in Western Europe is a survey covering Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Low Countries, and Scandinavia. Edited by William Wallace and W. E. Paterson, it is published by Saxon House at £8.50.

Intergovernmental

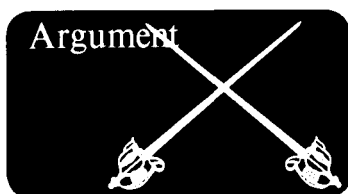
Also from Saxon House, at £7.00, is *Intergovernmental relations in the European Community*, by C. Hull and R. A. W. Rhodes. This concentrates in fact on the sub-national — regional and local — impact of the Community, using as case-studies Germany and Britain, and urges local authority associations to establish an International Affairs Unit.

Trade Policy

International Trade Policy, by F. V. Meyer (Croom Helm, £9.95), is a new study arguing principally that international trade policy must fit the economic structures of the trading countries. In the course of the discussion it surveys US free-trade policies and the development of the Community.

Design Protection

This is the title of a concise and practical guide to the law on plagiarism for manufacturers and designers, in Britain and elsewhere. Written by Dan Johnson and published by the Design Council at £5.00, it includes a section on protection under Community and European law.



No Leviathan

There are fewer Eurocrats than you think

The European Commission is often accused of being a 'faceless bureaucracy', and people tend to think of it as a vast hive of civil servants meddling in British affairs.

In fact, for the size of population served — nearly 260,000,000 citizens — it must be the smallest bureaucracy in the world.

As at April 30, 1978, Commission staff totalled 11,176, and of these 2,285 are mainly specialists working in the four establishments of the

Joint Research Centre, and 193 work in the Publications Office. Thus the policy and administrative work of the Commission is serviced by 8,698 people.

The table shows the breakdown of numbers of staff in each directorate-general or other services. A large number of people work in DG IX — Personnel and Administration — but the biggest proportion of these are engaged as interpreters or translators of the six Community languages.

Commission staff, by Directorate-General and location
Situation at April 30, 1978

Administrative unit	Bru.	Lux.	Ext. Offices	Ispra	Karlsruhe	Geel	Petten	Other	Total
Secretariat-General	176	7							
Legal Service	142	3							
Statistical Office	29	257							
Customs Union	116								
I External Relations	251			114					
II Econ. and Financial Affairs	227								
III Int. Market and Industrial Affairs	337								
IV Competition	253								
V Social Affairs	189	67							
VI Agriculture	568								
VII Transport	120								
VIII Development	361	2							
IX Personnel and Administration	2,682	863		21					
X Spokesman and Information	174	3	234						
XII Research, Science and Education	215	1		25					
XIII Sci. and Tech. Inf. and Inf. Management	10	128							
XIV Fisheries	48								
XV Fin. Instns. and Taxation	81								
XVI Regional Policy	111								
XVII Energy	143	110							
XVIII Credit and Investments		69							
XIX Budgets	151	3							
XX Financial Control	84	7		5					
Euratom Supply Agency	18								
Security Office	29	4							
Env. and Consumer Protection Service	82								
Commissioners' Offices	178								
TOTAL COMMISSION	6,775	1,524	348	51					8,698
Publications Office		193							193
Joint Research Centre	22			1,690	212	199	162		2,285
TOTAL	6,797	1,717	348	1,741	212	199	162		11,176

Source: European Parliament: Written Question No. 60/78